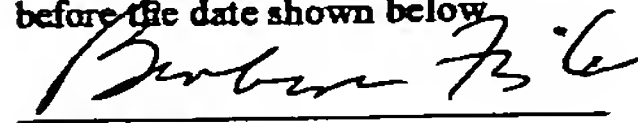


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AP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 25 MAY 2006



Barbara Fisher
Date: May 25, 2006

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PCT International Application of)

SAVIGNAT, Jean-Michel, Claude, Gaston, et. al.)

Int. Appln No.: PCT/EP2004/053125)

Intl. Filing Date: 26 November 2004)

DRILL BIT WITH PROTECTION MEMBER)

May 25, 2006

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Box PCT (DO/EO/US)
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115

Prior to taking up the case for examination, please amend the application as follows: